08-13555-mg Doc 54592 Filed 01/24/17 Entered 01/24/17 10:51:09 Main Document Pg 1 of 11 HEARING DATE AND TIME: February 23, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time)

RESPONSE DEADLINE: February 9, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

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Garrett A. Fail

Attorneys for Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and Certain of Its Affiliates

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In re : Chapter 11 Case No.

:

LEHMAN BROTHERS HOLDINGS INC., et al., : 08-13555 (SCC)

:

Debtors. : (Jointly Administered)

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NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PLAN ADMINISTRATOR'S OBJECTION TO CLAIM NUMBERS 32710 AND 32711

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on January 23, 2017, Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. ("LBHI"), as Plan Administrator under the Modified Third Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and Its Affiliated Debtors for the entities in the above-referenced chapter 11 cases, filed its objection to claim numbers 32710 and 32711 (the "Claim Objection"), and that a hearing (the "Hearing") to consider the Claim Objection will be held before the Honorable Shelley C. Chapman, United States Bankruptcy Judge, in Courtroom 623 of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, One Bowling Green, New York, New York 10004, on February 23, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time), or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any responses to the Claim Objection must be in writing, shall conform to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedures and the Local Rules of the Bankruptcy Court, shall be filed with the Bankruptcy Court (a) electronically in accordance with General Order M-399 (which can be found at

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www.nysb.uscourts.gov) by registered users of the Bankruptcy Court's filing system, and (b) by

all other parties in interest, on a CD-ROM or 3.5 inch disk, preferably in Portable Document

Format (PDF), WordPerfect, or any other Windows-based word processing format (with a hard

copy delivered directly to Chambers), in accordance with General Order M-182 (which can be

found at www.nysb.uscourts.gov), and shall be served in accordance with General Order M-399

upon (i) the chambers of the Honorable Shelley C. Chapman, One Bowling Green, New York,

New York 10004, Courtroom 623; (ii) attorneys for LBHI, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, 767

Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10153 (Attn: Garrett A. Fail, Esq.); and (iii) the Office of

the United States Trustee for Region 2, U.S. Federal Office Building, 201 Varick Street, Suite

1006, New York, New York 10014 (Attn: William K. Harrington, Esq., Susan Golden, Esq., and

Andrea B. Schwartz, Esq.); so as to be so filed and received by no later than **February 9, 2017**

at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) (the "Response Deadline").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if no responses are timely filed and

served with respect to the Claim Objection, the Plan Administrator may, on or after the Response

Deadline, submit to the Bankruptcy Court an order substantially in the form of the proposed

order annexed to the Claim Objection, which order may be entered with no further notice or

opportunity to be heard offered to any party.

Dated: January 23, 2017

New York, New York

/s/ Garrett A. Fail

Garrett A. Fail

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RESPONSE DEADLINE: February 23, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time)

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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X

In re : Chapter 11 Case No.

LEHMAN BROTHERS HOLDINGS INC., et al., : 08-13555 (SCC)

Debtors. : (Jointly Administered)

-----X

THE PLAN ADMINISTRATOR'S OBJECTION TO CLAIM NUMBERS 32710 AND 32711

TO THE HONORABLE SHELLEY C. CHAPMAN UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:

Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. ("<u>LBHI</u>"), as Plan Administrator under the Modified Third Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and Its Affiliated Debtors (the "<u>Plan</u>")¹ for the entities in the above-referenced chapter 11 cases (collectively, the "<u>Chapter 11 Estates</u>"), respectfully represents as follows:

Relief Requested

1. The Plan Administrator files this objection pursuant to section 502(b) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") and Rule 3007(d) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), seeking disallowance and

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¹ Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Plan.

expungement of claim numbers 32710 and 32711 (the "<u>Claims</u>") filed by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

Jurisdiction

2. This Court has jurisdiction to consider this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b).

Background

- 3. Commencing on September 15, 2008 and periodically thereafter, LBHI and certain of its subsidiaries commenced with this Court voluntary cases under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. These chapter 11 cases have been consolidated for procedural purposes only and are being jointly administered pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b).
- 4. By order dated July 2, 2009 (the "Bar Date Order"), the Court established (a) September 22, 2009 as the Bar Date and (b) October 22, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. as the deadline for the filing of Derivative Questionnaires and Guarantee Questionnaires (each as defined in the Bar Date Order) against the Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases. [ECF No. 4271 at 2, 7-8]. The Bar Date Order requires, among other things, that "each Proof of Claim must . . . include supporting documentation or an explanation as to why documentation is not available." (Bar Date Order at 6.) The supporting documentation requirement was specifically set forth on the face of the Court-approved proof of claim form. (*Id.* at Exhibit B.) Furthermore, the Bar Date Order provides that "any holder of a claim against the Debtors who is required, but fails to file a proof of claim in accordance with the Bar Date Order on or before the Bar Date . . . specifying the applicable Debtor and other requirements set forth herein, shall forever be barred, estopped, and enjoined from asserting such claim against the Debtors (or filing a Proof of Claim with respect thereto)." (*Id.* at 9-10).

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- Debtor based on amounts owed pursuant to any Derivative Contract must . . . complete the electronic Derivative Questionnaire [and] electronically upload supporting documentation on the website" (Bar Date Order at 7.) The Bar Date Order further provided that "each holder of a claim against a Debtor based on a Guarantee by a Debtor of the obligations of a non-Debtor entity under a Derivative Contract must [also]: . . . complete the electronic Guarantee Questionnaire and electronically upload supporting documentation on the website" (*Id.* at 8.) A copy of the Bar Date Order was made publicly available at http://lehman-docket.com.
- 6. Exhibit C to the Bar Date Order was a version of the Derivative Questionnaire, which required that the claimant provide various information in support of its claim, such as copies of relevant agreements and unpaid amounts, collateral, and other costs associated with the claim pursuant to the derivative contract. Also attached to the Bar Date Order was Exhibit D, a version of the Guarantee Questionnaire, which required the claimant to, among other things, set forth information forming the basis of the claimant's assertion of a guarantee.
- 7. On December 6, 2011 the Court approved and entered an order confirming the Plan [ECF No. 23023] (the "Confirmation Order"). The Plan became effective on March 6, 2012 (the "Effective Date"). Pursuant to the Plan, the Plan Administrator is authorized to interpose and prosecute objections to claims filed against the Chapter 11 Estates. The Confirmation Order provides that after the Effective Date, no proof of claim relating to a prepetition claim may be amended without the authority of the Court. *See* Confirmation Order ¶ 86.

The Claims Should Be Disallowed and Expunged

- 8. A filed proof of claim is "deemed allowed, unless a party in interest . . . objects." 11 U.S.C. § 502(a). If an objection refuting at least one of the claim's essential allegations is asserted, the claimant has the burden to demonstrate the validity of the claim. *See In re Oneida Ltd.*, 400 B.R. 384, 389 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2009); *In re Adelphia Commc'ns Corp.*, No. 02-41729 (REG), 2007 Bankr. LEXIS 660 at *15 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Feb. 20, 2007); *In re Rockefeller Ctr. Props.*, 272 B.R. 524, 539 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2000). Moreover, section 502(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, in relevant part, that a claim may not be allowed to the extent that "such claim is unenforceable against the debtor and property of the debtor, under any agreement or applicable law." 11 U.S.C. § 502(b)(1).
- 9. This Court and others in the Second Circuit have held that "claims can be disallowed for failure to support the claim with sufficient evidence . . . because absent adequate documentation, the proof of claim is not sufficient for the objector to concede the validity of the claim." *In re Minbatiwalla*, 424 B.R. 104, 119 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010) (relying on Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c), which requires that proofs of claim include supporting information to establish their prima facie validity); accord *In re Porter*, 374 B.R. 471 (Bankr. D. Conn. 2007).
- 10. The Claims were filed by Wells Fargo Bank, National Association ("Wells Fargo") against LBHI based on LBHI's purported guarantee of the obligations of Lehman Brothers Special Financing, Inc. ("LBSF") under certain swap agreements (the "Derivatives Contracts") and against LBSF directly under those same agreements. The Claims were filed with two components: (i) an unliquidated claim for out-of-pocket expenses, including legal fees and trustee fees and (ii) a precautionary claim for any "contingent" obligations that could arise.

Wells Fargo has not provided any supporting documentation with its Claims, the Derivatives or Guarantee Questionnaires, or otherwise, to support a liquidated claim against LBHI or LBSF.

- 11. The Plan Administrator made numerous requests for supporting documentation or evidence of a liquidated claim. Without additional information, the Plan Administrator is unable to assess the basis and merits of the Claims or to determine their validity.
- 12. Creditors had until the Effective Date of the Plan, March 6, 2012—approximately two and a half years after the Bar Date—to amend their claims without leave from the Court. Wells Fargo never amended the Claims to assert specific valuation amounts and did not provide the required supporting information, in violation of the Bar Date Order.
- 13. The Bar Date Order specifically requires that "each Proof of Claim *must*: include supporting documentation or an explanation as to why documentation is not available." (Bar Date Order at 6 (emphasis added).). This requirement for proofs of claim is not a unique one. Indeed, this Court and others in the Southern District of New York have entered similar orders requiring that proofs of claim include supporting documentation or an explanation as to why documentation is unavailable. The Bankruptcy Rules' official proof of claim form also includes this standard requirement. The Claims were filed in an unliquidated amount and no supporting information was provided despite the requirements of the Bar Date Order. The failure to comply with the Bar Date Order is an independent basis for disallowing these claims.
- 14. Here, no reserves are being maintained for unliquidated portions of claims where no support has been provided after more than eight years after the commencement of these cases, more than seven years after the Bar Date, and more than five years after the confirmation of the Plan. Accordingly, the Plan Administrator respectfully requests the Court enter an order disallowing and expunging the Claims in their entirety.

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Reservation of Rights

15. The Plan Administrator reserves all rights to object on any other bases to

the Claims.

Notice

16. No trustee has been appointed in these chapter 11 cases. The Plan

Administrator has served notice of this objection on (i) the United States Trustee for Region 2;

(ii) the Securities and Exchange Commission; (iii) the Internal Revenue Services; (iv) the United

States Attorney for the Southern District of New York; (v) Wells Fargo; and (vi) all other parties

entitled to notice in accordance with the procedures set forth in the second amended order

entered on June 17, 2010 governing case management and administrative procedures for these

cases [ECF No. 9635]. The Plan Administrator submits that no other or further notice need be

provided.

17. No previous request for the relief sought herein has been made by the Plan

Administrator or the Chapter 11 Estates to this or any other Court.

WHEREFORE the Plan Administrator respectfully requests that the Court grant

the relief requested herein and such other and further relief as is just.

Dated:

January 23, 2017

New York, New York

/s/ Garrett A. Fail

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Exhibit A

Proposed Order

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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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n re : Chapter 11 Case No.

LEHMAN BROTHERS HOLDINGS INC., et al., : 08-13555 (SCC)

Debtors. : (Jointly Administered)

-----X

ORDER GRANTING PLAN ADMINISTRATOR'S OBJECTION TO CLAIM NUMBERS 32710 AND 32711

Upon the objection to claim numbers 32710 and 32711, dated January 23, 2017 (the "Claims Objection"), of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., as Plan Administrator under the Modified Third Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and its Affiliated Debtors, seeking to disallow and expunge the Claims pursuant to section 502(b) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), all as more fully described in the Claims Objection; and due and proper notice of the Claims Objection having been provided as stated therein; and it appearing that no other or further notice need be provided; and the Court having found and determined that the relief sought in the Claims Objection is in the best interests of the Chapter 11 Estates, their creditors, and all parties in interest, and that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Claims Objection establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is

ORDERED that the relief requested in the Claims Objection is granted; and it is further

¹ Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Claims Objection.

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ORDERED that, pursuant to section 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, claim numbers 32710 and 32711 are disallowed and expunged in their entirety with prejudice; and it is further

OR	RDERED that this Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all
matters arising fro	om or related to this Order.
Dated:New York	, 2017 r, New York